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M&M

FLIGHTRECORDER

Newsletter from
Mathias & Mandy Glass

Nr. 41



**This is what the Lord says:
I will rejoice in doing them good.
The Bible, Jeremia 32, 41**

DEAR FRIENDS,

Since our last Flight Recorder edition, we have seen a lot of good things happening in our PNG environment. Some of it we would like to share with you in today's issue.

There is the village of Simbai which not only wants to export coffee beans but also wants to attract tourists.

Laura, our neighbour's daughter, shares about her first flight with MAF into the earthquake-affected area.

For Mathias to fly the Cessna Caravan means to fly in different areas of the country to serve people and communities with different needs.

Not every flight saves lives.

There are situations where God might not give a good outcome. But that should not stop us from turning to our neighbour and doing good. Again, we thank you for doing good to us by prayer, encouragement and giving!

Lukim yu, Mathias & Mandy

If the Pilot comes to stay and overnight in Simbai, you dress up to the nines to welcome him! Hiding in the head dress are hundreds of green shiny beetles!

Many of the first solo flights in the Cessna Caravan took Mathias to Simbai, about 25 flight minutes from Mt Hagen. On board was food and household items for local business owners, but also an extraordinary amount of building materials such as cement bags, steel posts, corrugated iron and nails. Right next to the parking bay, a new multipurpose building was built in just a few weeks, containing storage space for coffee bags, an office each for the coffee cooperation and the local MAF agent and a room that can be used for training or other functions.

Mandy, in her role as Communications Officer, wanted to know more about the village development in Simbai and the dependence of the village upon MAF. Therefore, we approached the Anglican missionaries Reverend Lynn and Tony Fry to see if we could stay with them for a weekend, to find out more.

We met Vincent, a local from Simbai who trained as an accountant. A few years ago, he stumbled upon a newspaper ad: The PNG Government, in association with the World Bank, was seeking Papua New Guinean investors to professionally develop local coffee and cocoa production. Vincent partnered with the region's Anglican Church, came up with a concept and won the bid. He is Project Manager for five agricultural corporations in the Highlands. His vision for Simbai is to secure the future of its many coffee farmers and to improve their income. So far, the coffee cherries get locally peeled, washed and dried, then flown out in 50kg sacks. Vincent wants to expand the local manufacturing process to see export-ready products flown out of the village: high-quality, organically grown Arabica coffee from Simbai, ready to be roasted and ground.



My Mougulu Adventure

A personal account written by the teenager's daughter of MAF PNG's Maintenance Manager

My name is Laura Meeks, and I am what most people would call a Mission Kid. I had the amazing chance to fly with one of the Twin Otters with materials for a sawmill delivered to Mougulu, a village that was damaged in the recent earthquakes.

The true question was would I be embarking on this adventure solo or would Mandy, our MAF photographer and journalist, be joining me as planned? The sawmill barely left enough room for three passengers. It turned out that they just had enough room for both of us; that heightened the already huge excitement I felt. Going without Mandy would be a big thing for me, barely leaving my compound more than once a week, and even then usually with a huge group of family and friends.

I got to wear a headset and listen to the radio communications between the pilots. Our 45 minute flight was accompanied with another passenger, a lady working for an NGO, who was also bringing care packages for the people.

On arrival we were welcomed warmly and Mandy and I were given beautiful flower necklaces and bilums. Mandy interviewed a few people, a Bible School student, the pastor and the one



in charge of the care packages.

I noticed a lot of people looked really hungry and malnourished. I was ready to start laughing when the Bible School student thanked Mandy for volleyballs and nets! But then I thought it's good that they can have fun even though they have been through such a tragedy with the earthquakes destroying their food gardens and shaking up their whole lives. Still, the people were all so happy and you could hear them laughing at each other.

The people said that they were going to use the sawmill to cut timber for a new high school and distribute the food to the pregnant mothers and little

children. That's really important because those kids are their future, and if it's possible for them to get a full education then they should get that chance.

For my first trip into a remote village it was pretty good. I must admit though, I was a little sad that we didn't get to see the full village and I did miss a few good shots with the camera, but Mandy was right in there, asking questions, getting background information and taking photos.

I guess it's all in a days work for he.

I guess it's all in a days work for her.

* **HERE** you can read the story about the volleyballs.

120 Flights

As of 31 May 2018, our MAF aircraft have completed or enabled 120 Disaster Response (DR) flights into the earthquake impacted area.

159 People

have been on board our DR flights: patients who needed medical care, or aid and relief workers to assess and assist the affected communities.

170 Tonnes

of cargo have been transported to meet the needs of the people in the earthquake impacted area, providing food, water, shelter, and many other items.

EARTHQUAKE: EMERGENCY AID FLIGHTS ARE FINISHED, BUT ...

"The sawmill is to cut timber for a new high school."

The delivery of the sawmill marks a change in the relief flights to the earthquake area. After many food, hygiene and basic medical aid flights, and a thorough assessment of medium and long term needs, the focus is now on rebuilding local communities' infrastructure.

Sally Lloyd, once a missionary child like Laura and who was raised in Mougulu, is heavily involved in the village development work of her PNG family. Sally, now in her mid-fifties, explained, that "the mobile sawmill helps to save enormous costs. The timber required for the reconstruction

(especially for health and educational institutions as well as staff housing) can be produced locally.

One construction project is the high school in Mougulu, which has long been planned for the entire catchment area. This is even more urgent: as students attending the nearest high school in the neighbouring province must flee back to their ruined villages for ongoing tribal struggles in the major centres. We urgently need to create a safe place where young people can continue their education; and the communities want it to happen in Mougulu."



MANDY EXPERIENCES THE NIGHT LIFE OF CAIRNS

A night shift with the Cairns Street Chaplains



Since June 10, I've been in Cairns, waiting for my work visa which I received back on the 26th. Currently, I'm attending a MAF Communications Officer Conference. Being in Cairns on my own is far from being boring. I work on various MAF PNG articles and even keep updating the MAF PNG Facebook page from the distance, do an online study on writing and editing, and of course, enjoy the shopping opportunities and meet with friends. Last week on Friday night, I was able

to join the Cairns Street Chaplains, Angela and Jael, from 4 pm to 4 am. We spent 3 hours on the Rest & Recovery van, and 3 hours on patrol. It's a volunteer ministry by Christians from different churches in the city center of Cairns, right where the nightclubs are located. Four people do nightshift, being at the van and on street patrol for 3 hours each.

The Cairns Street Chaplains' vision is changing the spirit of Cairns with the purpose to be Jesus' hands and feet on the streets of Cairns; there to help when good nights go bad.

Here are some examples from my night shift: Homeless Aborigines receive warm blankets.

A drunken young man, left behind by friends, does not know how to get home. Since abdominal surgery, this was his first time being out and having fun. Shaking and close to panic, he asked for help at the van. Angela gets hold of his friend via WhatsApp, who then picks him up 10 minutes later. Relieved and grateful, he walks away with his friend.

By radio, the Street Chaplains are connected to other security services and the camera surveillance center. They got called to the back entrance of a nightclub. Alcohol and two servings of ecstasy were too much for a girl. Collapsed and twitching, she lies on the floor. Angela measures her pulse. It's ok. No risk of death! The ambulance comes anyway.

Not far from the van a man falls. It is loud. A dispute. Angela and Jael approach the scene, but do not interfere, just watch. The situation calms down. Nevertheless, they look to see if the man was hurt.

While on patrol, glass bottles get collected and disposed of in the next trash can. Prophylaxis. Bottles can become nasty weapons in case of a dispute ...

And at the van for free: water for thirst, cupped ears for the stories and needs of the people, two comfortable chairs to rest (or sober up).

I am impressed. A true human service for a safer nightlife in Cairns.

GETTING AN ABDOMINAL SHOT INSTEAD OF HAVING PIZZA

Tribal conflicts in Papua New Guinea are becoming increasingly brutal

Since Mandy is currently waiting for her work visa in Australia, I am forced to look after myself and the household for a few weeks. Occasionally, some neighbours or friends invite me over for a meal. Dirk, a former MAF pilot and now working for another airline, was also alone and had invited me to his canteen for pizza night. I accepted with thanks and was looking forward to the evening.

My flight program promised to be short. However, when I gave my passengers the safety briefing for the last flight back to Mt Hagen, my cell phone rang. Our dispatcher: As soon as I get back to Mt Hagen, I am needed to fly to Kompiam to take three gunshot patients to Mt Hagen. Dr David Mills would also come on board. One of the patients has a belly wound and has already lost a lot of blood. Dr Mills asked me to hurry.

The weather was excellent for this time of the day. Usually big thunder/storms would build up. I was able to fly directly over the ridge into the Kompiam valley and, after a shortened

circuit, make the final approach. On the ground I parked the plane in such a way that I could take off directly from the parking position.

The hospital staff tried to stabilise the man with the abdominal injury. Four bags of blood had been already given, the fifth and last bag was then connected. It took awhile for Dr Mills to examine the patient and release him for transport. A man with a head injury was able to get on the plane by himself. A third patient with a gunshot wound on the hand was also stable.

At 5:20 pm, I pushed the throttle forward, the engine accelerated over the bumpy runway until we took off in the clear evening air towards Mt Hagen.

Arriving in Mt Hagen, our MAF ground staff waited with the wheelchair and a stretcher for the seriously injured. One last check and Dr Mills allowed our staff to transfer the patient to the ambulance.

It was already 5:45. I still had to finalise the paperwork for the day. A quarter past six, I realised that I had to



cancel the pizza night with my friend. Beside being a bit disappointed for that I still felt satisfied. I had flown a critical patient transport and accomplished my tasks for today.

„Unfortunately, the man died of massive blood loss from his kidney,” reported Dr Mills. “The other patients are recovering. They have all been shot in a recent tribal conflict. This is still going on. We had 15 new admissions with gunshots yesterday (June 23). A horrible day!”

PICTURE WALL

Some snapshots from Simbai



Simbai from a bird's-eye view. The airstrip is the infrastructural center for thousands of people.



Supermarket a la Simbai: All goods are flown in and are correspondingly expensive: 200ml Coke in the town is K2, in Simbai, K5.



Cooking over the fire. This takes time. Time to talk, reflect on every day life, experiences and relationships. It was delicious! Banana pancakes for a late evening snack or crunchy bread for breakfast.



Lynn & Tony work under the Anglican Church, and have a heart for the people of Simbai. Both teach at the local vocational school.



This 16-year old had a fracture of his lower leg playing in a soccer tournament. Without x-raying, the leg was restored to shape and splinted. 1.5 years ago, the health post received their last medicine supplies...



Thanks to the mobile sawmill flown in earlier this year, a factory hall is built using local wood to then process local coffee for export. A project that shows local ambition and strengthens the coffee farmers of the region. We wish that this will become a story of great success and sustainability!



The construction of the new Anglican church with locally sawn and planed timber. With a combination of muscle power and ropes, the individual elements were erected under local construction management. The inauguration is scheduled for mid-August.

Simbai INFO-BOX

Simbai is located in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea, it's airstrip lays at 1800 m altitude. As one of four major communities in the Middle Ramu district, Simbai is part of the Madang Province. The people belong to the Kalam tribe, one of the largest language groups of Papua New Guinea.

It is estimated that about 25,000 adults live in the administrative area of Simbai and subsequently the catchment area of the airstrip.

Graduates from 18 primary schools (up to Grade 8) can continue their education in Grades 9 and 10 at Simbai High School. In 2017, 5 out of 56 students from the local primary school made the leap to high school. Of the 200 tenth graders only 18 students have passed the exam. A sobering record!

Approximately 3000 families are coffee farmers. Coffee is the only economic basis of life, the coffee factory an investment into the future.

STAY CONNECTED

Mathias & Mandy Glass
c/o MAF PNG LTD
P.O. Box 273
Mt Hagen, WHP, 281
Papua New Guinea

Mobile Mathias +675 7214 1289
Mobile Mandy +675 7313 7731

E-Mail:
mathias_mandy@gmx.de

Website: www.maf-pilot.de

MAF GERMANY

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Stumme-Loch-Weg 7
57072 Siegen

Tel.: (+49) 271 701 4780

E-Mail: kontakt@maf-germany.de

Website:
www.maf-deutschland.de



DONATIONS

MAF Deutschland e. V.
Sparkasse Siegen
IBAN:
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SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1SIE
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